

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (new) A shell-case cartridge including a projectile and having a cartridge-blank seat (4) receiving a replaceable propellant cartridge-blank (1), the cartridge-blank (1) comprising a cylindrical container having a primer (2) and a propellant charge (3) contained therein, the cartridge-blank being insertable into the cartridge-blank seat (4) and operative upon ignition of said propellant charge for expulsion of said projectile from the shell-case;

- said cartridge-blank (1) having inserted from its front end one of a number of exchangeable inserts (7) having a diameter sealing against the cylinder wall of the cartridge-blank (1);

- a passage (8) through said insert (7) providing a constriction to flow of combustion gases expelled from said cartridge-blank (1) upon ignition;

- said insert (7) defining a high-pressure chamber within said cartridge-blank (1), and separating said high-pressure chamber within the cartridge-blank from an empty low-pressure chamber (6) of substantially larger gas volume than said high-pressure

chamber and formed in said shell-case cartridge, between said insert (7) and said projectile.

15. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein a dismountable rear portion (14) of the shell-case cartridge is connectable to a front portion (16) through a threaded connection, a rear portion (17) of the cartridge-blank having a reduced diameter receivable in a through hole (15) in connected position.

16. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein the insert (7) has a cylindrical portion (9) insertable into the forward end of the cartridge, the outer diameter of said portion (9) sealing against the cartridge, and a cylindrical portion (11) protruding there from and dimensioned to be received in the opening (1) through the wall (5) of the cartridge-seat, a shoulder (10) radially extended between the two portions (9 and 11), and an axial passage (8) going there through, the diameter of which is dimensioned for delaying the exiting combustion gases.

17. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein the insert is formed from a material of less hardness than the cartridge-seat to be deformable for sealing contact with the forward wall (5) of the cartridge-seat.

18. (new) The cartridge of claim 17, wherein the insert is made of copper, copper alloy, aluminum or other light metal.

19. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein a membrane (12) is attached to an inner end of the insert (7), sealing the passage (8).

20. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, characterized in that the insert (7) initially is depressed into the cartridge (1) only to a depth that gives the cartridge an oversized axial length with respect to the cartridge-seat (4).

21. (new) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein a membrane (12) is attached to an inner end of the insert (7), sealing the passage (8).

22. (new) The cartridge of claim 17, wherein a membrane (12) is attached to an inner end of the insert (7), sealing the passage (8).

23. (new) The cartridge of claim 18, wherein a membrane (12) is attached to an inner end of the insert (7), sealing the passage (8).

24. (new) The cartridge of claim 16, characterized in that the insert (7) initially is depressed into the cartridge (1) only to a depth that gives the cartridge an oversized axial length with respect to the cartridge-seat (4).

25. (new) The cartridge of claim 17, characterized in that the insert (7) initially is depressed into the cartridge (1) only to a depth that gives the cartridge an oversized axial length with respect to the cartridge-seat (4).

26. (new) The cartridge of claim 18, characterized in that the insert (7) initially is depressed into the cartridge (1) only to a depth that gives the cartridge an oversized axial length with respect to the cartridge-seat (4).

27. (new) The cartridge of claim 19, characterized in that the insert (7) initially is depressed into the cartridge (1) only to a depth that gives the cartridge an oversized axial length with respect to the cartridge-seat (4).